

Minutes – Atchafalaya Basin Program (ABP)

Research and Promotion Board Meeting

DEC 2, 2014

Meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM by the Chair - Gerald Alexander

A Roll Call was conducted and showed the following members present and that a quorum was present:

Gerald Alexander, Paul Naquin, Linda Hardy (for Alex Appeaning), Stuart Johnson, Keith Lovell, Brad Spicer, Charles Sutcliffe, and Mike Wood.

Sign-in sheet is attached to document other attendees.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mike Wood, seconded by Stuart Johnson, and passed unanimously by voice vote of the members.

A motion to approve the minutes from the Sept 2014 meeting was made Charles Sutcliffe, seconded by Keith Lovell and was passed unanimously by voice vote of the members.

Don Haydel gave a summary of the public meetings, which were held in Plaquemine on Nov 5, in Henderson on Nov 6, and in Morgan City on Nov 13. He explained that once the Research and Promotion approves the changes that have been incorporated into the plan as a result of public comments, the ABP will take the plan to CPRA to ensure that it is consistent with the Coastal Master Plan. Following CPRA approval, the Research and Promotion Board will meet in February to give final approval to the ABP Annual Plan.

Paul Naquin asked why ABP projects must be deemed consistent with the Coastal Master Plan. Charles Sutcliffe pointed out that they just must not be *inconsistent*. Don Haydel gave as an example placement of dredge spoil, which in some cases could potentially be inconsistent with the Coastal Master Plan.

Don Haydel gave a line-by-line description of changes that were incorporated into the annual plan during the public comment process. They are as follows:

- **Page 2 - Move the “Vacant, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers” from the Research and Promotion Board list to the TAG list. This is a TAG position.**
- **Page 2 - In the Legislative Oversight Committee list, it should be “Rep. Terry Landry”.**
- **Page 3 - Third paragraph, line 5 – insert “as” between “well” and “attend”.**
- **Page 17 - The CPRA meetings will actually be in January 2015 and February 2015 because there will be no December meeting.**
- **Page 30 - Add to the end of the status report – “...until negotiations are finalized and the TAG has re-evaluated whether the project is viable with the features that can be constructed.”**
- **Page 37 – Under the status report for East Fork Bayou Pigeon, please replace “will be” with “was”.**
- **Page 39 – Under NRIAS, please add the following – “The ABP urges the Corps to manage the ORCS and channel maintenance in the Atchafalaya River to maximize sediment transport to the coast and to minimize the sediment that continues to fill the swamp.”**
- **On Page 47, please replace the photo for the Bayou Amy Boat Launch with the attached RIMG0025 photo that shows “Jim Trewin Park”.**
- **On Page 54, please insert the attached DSC4479 photo that shows the delta forming in Grand Lake.**

Public comments were made by Dean Wilson, representing the Atchafalaya Basinkeeper and the Sierra Club Atchafalaya Basin Committee. He summarized the letter that he submitted to the ABP. The letter is attached to these minutes.

In reference to the request by Dean Wilson that the Atchafalaya Basin Program include in its plan options for placement of dredge spoil, Don Haydel said that with all projects, the options are essentially the same: 1. Place the spoil nearby, either by spray dredging or by building mound(s) 2. Putting it into the main river channel to be carried downstream 3. Hauling spoil out of the Basin. The best option for each project is recommended during engineering and design, and stakeholders (including the Atchafalaya Basinkeeper) are included in discussions before final decisions are made.

Charles Sutcliffe added that CPRA is currently asking the Corps to re-evaluate its sediment management plan for the Mississippi River, and this may have implications for the Atchafalaya Basin.

A motion to approve the 2016 Draft Annual Plan was made by Brad Spicer, seconded by Keith Lovell, and passed unanimously by voice vote of the members.

Dean Wilson gave a presentation on sedimentation in the Atchafalaya Basin. His main point was that the Corps, through its engineering of Old River and major channel realignments in the Basin (including Upper Grand and Bayou Sorrel), has intentionally diverted the maximum amount of sediment from the Mississippi River into the Atchafalaya River and directly into the swamps. He would like for the ABP to persuade the Corps to stop the intentional sedimentation of the Basin's wetlands.

Old business: Paul Naquin asked about the status of the resolution which was passed by the Research and Promotion Board IN 2013 to include areas outside the Atchafalaya Floodway in the ABP's purview. Don Haydel said that the resolution was previously forwarded to the Atchafalaya Basin Oversight Committee, but that it would be sent again. Mr. Naquin also mentioned that, as the voting parish president, he would like to offer the opportunity to other

parish presidents after his voting term expires, but that he would continue to serve if no other parish president wished to participate in that manner.

A motion to adjourn was made by Keith Lovell. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.